

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-06
EA-07 OIC-02 NSC-05 SS-15 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01
ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
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INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
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E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: UNCTAD
SUBJECT: UNCTAD - COMMON FUND

REF: NEW DELHI 5721

1. LOCAL QUAKER GROUP SCHEDULED INFORMAL LUNCHEON APRIL 25
TO DISCUSS UNCTAD COMMON FUND IN LIGHT OF RESULTS RECENTLY
CONCLUDED NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE. (THEY PERIODICALLY SCHEDULE
SUCH INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON VARIOUS THIRD WORLD TOPICS.)
OFFICIALS PRESENT WERE: KHERBI (ALGERIA); WALKER (JAMAICA),
(CHAIRMAN OF NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE); VAN DER TAK (NETHER-
LANDS); BARRASS (UK) (GROUP B COMMON FUND SPOKESMAN);
UNCTAD SYG COREA AND BRUNAGRT (U.S.).

2. AT OUTSET OF DISCUSSION U.S. ASKED FOR VIEWS AS TO LIKELY
NATURE OF MAY 4 TDB DISCUSSION CONCERNING SCHEDULING OF
RESUMED CF NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE. (WE HAD PRVIOUSLY
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HEARD SEVERAL INDICATIONS FROM LDC SOURCES THAT CERTAIN
LDC'S PARTICULARLY AFRICAN, WERE RELUCTANT TO SCHEDULE
NEXT SESSION IN NOVEMBER UNTIL THEY SAW CIEC RESULTS.)
KHERVI RESPONDED THAT IN HIS VIEW IT MORE IMPORTANT TO
FIX DATE AT TIME WHEN MATTER RIPE RATHER THAN TRYING TO
SETTLE MATTER FINALLY NEXT WEEK. IT IMPORTANT NOT TO
HAVE REPEAT OF UNSUCCESSFUL MARCH SESSION. HE MENTIONED

JANUARY 1978 AS A GOOD POSSIBILITY FOR RESUMED SESSION. WALKER ON OTHER HAND TOOK LINE THAT IT IMPORTANT TO FIX FIRM DATE IN ORDER FORCE ATTENTION TO TOPIC AND TO BUILD UP POLITICAL PRESSURES. HE SAID THIS WAS ON ASSUMPTION G-77 WOULD HAVE FIRM UNIFIED POSITION BY NOVEMBER, AND IF MEMBERS OF G-77 TOLD HIM QUIETLY THIS WOULD NOT BE THE CASE, HE WOULD SEE SITUATION DIFFERENTLY. BARRASS ALSO SUPPORTED IDEA OF FIRM DATE, ARGUING THAT IF IT TURNED OUT MORE TIME NEEDED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO AGREE TO DELAY OF SEVERAL MONTHS. IN OUTLINING ENVISAGED PROGRAM OF GROUP B PREPARATION, HE STATED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR GROUP B TO PURSUE INTERNAL WORK ON MATTER UNTIL SECOND WEEK IN JUNE AT EARLIEST SINCE KEY OFFICIALS WILL BE TIED UP WITH CIEC IN MEANTIME. HE THOUGHT GROUP B MIGHT MEET IN OECD HLG ON COMMODITIES IN JUNE AFTER CIEC, AND THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE SOME INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH G-77 WHEN UNCTAD IGC MEETS WEEK OF JULY 11. BARRASS STATED GROUP B INTERNAL WORK WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE UNTIL EARLY OCTOBER AT WHICH TIME GROUP SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH G-77. KHERBI RESPONDED THAT PROSPECT OF SUCH LENGTHY GROUP B PROGRAM SUPPORTED HIS VIEW THAT WE SHOULD NOT AT THIS TIME FIRMLY SCHEDULE RESUMED SESSION FOR NOVEMBER. U.S. STAYED OUT OF CROSSFIRE, BUT NOTED THAT IF RESUMED SESSION WERE NOW SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER A POSTPONEMENT AT LATER DATE MIGH BE DIFFICULT SINCE TRADITIONALLY NO GROUP LIKES TAKE ONUS FOR ASKING FOR SUCH POSTPONEMENT. WE ALSO NOTED THAT POSTPONEMENT OF SUCH IMPOR- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TANT CONFERENCE MIGHT APPEAR AS RATHER DRAMATIC, THUS INCREASING HESITATION OF ANY GROUP TO ASK FOR DELAY. COREA ALSO REMAINED OUT OF DISCUSSION OF DATES STRESSING THAT IN HIS VIEW, IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION WAS TO FIND BEST WAY OF ADVVANCING WORK BETWEEN NOW AND RESUMED CONFERENCE.

3. WITH REFERENCE REFTEL FROM NEW DELHI, WE NOTED THAT CERTAIN IMPORTANT LDC'S APPARENTLY DID NOT ANTICIPATE CIEC DEALING WITH COMMODITIES. PARTICIPANTS AT LUNCHEON ALL SEEMED TO CONSIDER OTHERWISE, WITH KHERBI NOTING THAT COMMODITIES SPECIFICALLY ON CIEC AGENDA. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IN CIEC, U.S. WOULD BE ABLE TO GO AS FAR AS COMMUNITY HAD GONE AT ROME MINISTERIAL, I.E., AGREEING THAT THERE "SHOULD" BE A COMMON FUND.

4. IN VIEW OF POSSIBILITY THAT THERE WILL NOT BE FIRM G-77 POSITION BY MAY 4 TDB MEETING CONCERNING DATE OF

RESUMTION OF NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE, U.S. DEL WILL NEED
GUIDANCE HOW TO DEAL WITH ISSUE. WE WOULD ASSUME THAT
U.S. WOULD WELCOME FURTHER TIME BEFORE RESUMED CONFER-
ENCE, INTER ALIA, TO ALLOW WORK ON INFIVIDUAL COMMODI-
TIES TO PROGRESS IF THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT OUR
TAKING ANY OF THE BLAME FOR DELAY IN SCHEDULE. PLEASE
CONFIRM. WE MAY BE PRESENTED WITH PROPOSALS
DURING MAY 4 TDB CONCERNING TIMING AND NATURE OF PRE-
PARATORY WORK BEFORE RESUMED CONFERENCE. WE WILL NEED
GUIDANCE U.S. VIEWS, IN PARTICULAR, THE FORMAT AND/OR
FORUM THE U.S. WOULD PREFER FOR SUCH WORK AND WHETHER
WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO AGREE TO SOME FORMAL MEETINGS

IF THIS WERE PRICE TO BE PAID FOR ALLOWING CF
ITSELF TO SLIP INTO 1978.SORENSEN

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